Lynda Banig Actron Manufacturing Cleveland, OH 44102

>Dear Sir or Madam,
>
>Having been a subscriber to the RFE/RL Daily Report, I have a couple of
>questions about what I have seen in the new OMRI Daily Digest.
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>First, there seems to be less news about Lithuania in the OMRI version than
>what
>was typically carried by RFE/RL. Is this a concious editorial decision or is
>there less newsworthy material about Lithuania this year than last? The other
>Baltic countries seem to be represented about as well as they previously were.
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>Since I am associated with a Lithuanian radio program, this issue is of some
>importance to me. RFE/RL & OMRI have been/are the primary source of English
>language news from my country of interest.
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There has been no decision on our part to reduce Lithuanian news relative to other areas. Perhaps, as you suggest, this reflects less activity in Lithuania of late. I will forward your note to our Director of Research and Analysis, who oversses publication of the Daily Digest.

>Secondly, even though the header states that the Daily Digest is being
>published
>by OMRI, I often see the tag "RFE/RL reports" embedded in news items in the
>digest. This is a source of some confusion both to me and my listeners. I was
>under the impression that RFE/RL no longer exists. Can you provide an
>explanation of this practice?

We use RFE/RL as an information resource in compiling our Daily Digest, along with a variety of other sources (AP, AFP, Interfax, local press from our focus countries, VOA broadcasts, etc.) RFE/RL still exists, and is broadcasting from Munich for the time being. The radios will be moving to Prague in April or May, if they stick to schedule, and will continue their broadcasts from here starting then. The research and publication divisions of RFE/RL have been shut down. OMRI, a new, independent organization, has tried to fill the gap left by the disappearance of the RFE/RL Daily Report and Research Report.

Hope this answers your questions.

Ken Varnum
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